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November 29, 2006

FILED/ACCEPTED

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

NOV 30 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

**Re: In the Matter of Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company
Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Education Networks of America ("ENA"), it is my pleasure to nominate Rex A. Miller to serve as the information service provider representative to the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC").¹ Since 1998, Mr. Miller has been Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of ENA, which provides managed network and technology solutions for school systems, libraries, and governments, focusing primarily on grades K-12. Mr. Miller's comprehensive experience with the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism (known as the "E-Rate" program) through his work at ENA, as well as his strong background in finance, make him an ideal candidate to fill this vacancy on the USAC Board.

Since its founding ten years ago, ENA has deployed some of the most extensive and advanced municipal and educational communication networks in the United States. For example, ENA worked with the Tennessee Department of Education to develop ConnectTEN, the first successful statewide K-12 network in the nation. ConnectTEN allows nearly one million students and more than 100,000 teachers and administrators in 137 school systems to access the Internet, making Tennessee a national model for Internet connectivity in schools and libraries. ENA's current customer base includes 450 K-12 school districts, composed of 4,000 schools, and 200 public libraries.

ENA has developed a superior reputation for customer service and support. In a 2006 survey of the 450 school systems served by ENA, the support and satisfaction expressed by the school districts was nearly unanimous: 99% of respondents gave ENA a positive overall satisfaction rating; 100% of respondents gave ENA's ConnectTEN and INSchools.Net networks positive overall satisfaction ratings; and 99% of respondents said they would recommend ENA's services to others.

¹ See *Wireline Competition Bureau Seeks Nominations for Seven Board Member Positions on the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21 (rel. Nov. 17, 2006) (Public Notice); 47 C.F.R. § 54.703(c).

Recognizing the fiscal constraints of its public sector customers, ENA also is strongly committed to providing cost-effective technology solutions. An independent study by the BLE Group² of E-Rate-eligible priority one services purchased by states and large school districts for the years 2000-2004 concluded that Tennessee paid approximately one-third the cost per student for equivalent services compared to large districts utilizing a standard "product and service" approach.

In addition to providing Internet access in schools, ENA has consistently sought to develop new and better ways to protect school children without compromising the speed or accessibility for which ENA's networks are known. In 1998, ENA pioneered the delivery of cutting-edge content filtering technology and network security measures throughout the ConnectTEN network. Most recently, ENA held a press conference with representatives of the State of Indiana and the Internet Keep Safe Coalition to announce that ENA will donate to every public elementary school and library in Indiana a copy of the Coalition's children's book on basic Internet safety. ENA also intends to provide access for public school teachers and librarians to companion materials to the book through ENA's networks in Indiana's K-12 schools and libraries.

In the decade since its inception, ENA has sought an active role in key Internet and K-12 technology organizations, including the E-Rate Service Provider Forum, the State Educational Technology Directors Association, Association of Educational Service Agencies, American Association of School Administrators, Council of Chief State School Officers, Council of the Great City Schools, StateNets, Internet2, and numerous state and local organizations in Tennessee and Indiana. In addition, ENA holds a seat on the Software and Information Industry Association board and is a nominee to the board of the Consortium for School Networking.

As demonstrated above, ENA is focused on providing reliable, cost-effective, and safe Internet access to its K-12 and other customers. Rex Miller, Senior VP and CFO, is an integral part of this effort. For the past eight years, Mr. Miller has assumed responsibility for all financial operations of ENA and has managed all aspects of ENA's participation in the E-Rate program. In addition, Mr. Miller represents ENA in the E-Rate Service Providers Forum and has spoken extensively about the E-Rate program at statewide conferences and in Internet seminars.

Prior to joining ENA eight years ago, Mr. Miller served as Director of Finance for a \$2 billion public healthcare company. He also has been Controller for a \$150 million, privately held manufacturing company and has seven years of experience as an audit manager at a large consulting firm, including significant work with regulated industries. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, and a Certified Financial Manager. A resume detailing Mr. Miller's professional experience is attached hereto.

² The BLE Group is an independent consulting organization composed of 35 working chief information officers, superintendents, and directors of curriculum from school districts and state departments of education. For more information, please see www.blegroup.com.

I believe that the USAC Board will be well served by Mr. Miller's experience with ENA's deployment of networks such as ConneCTEN, his commitment to the goals of the E-Rate program, and his strong financial background in auditing and regulated industries. I know that Mr. Miller welcomes the opportunity, as do all of us at ENA, to work with Chairman Martin and the Commission to ensure that USAC fulfills its obligation to administer the universal service support mechanisms in an efficient and effective manner.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this nomination. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Pierce
President and CEO
Education Networks of America

Attachment

cc: The Hon. Kevin J. Martin
Dr. Brian L. Talbott, Chair, USAC Board of Directors
Scott Barash, Acting CEO, USAC
David Capozzi, Acting General Counsel, USAC
Thomas Navin, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Jeremy Marcus, Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, WCB
Antoinette Stevens, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, WCB

Rex A. Miller
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Old Hickory, TN 37138
(615) 847-1271
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Professional Experience:

Education Networks of America – Chief Financial Officer - August 1998 - present

- Responsible for all financial operations of managed Internet services company
- Successfully managed federal E-Rate funding program leading to over \$200 million in successful filings and recognition as national expert in program compliance
- Presenter at numerous E-Rate conferences and seminars, including:
 - Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, *TOSS 2004 Superintendent's E-Rate Reference Guide*, September 2004
 - Software and Information Industry Association, *SIIA E-Rate Webcast Panel*, November 2004
 - Tennessee Education Technology Conference, *E-Rate Panel*, November 2004 and November 2005
 - Indiana State Library, *E-Rate Update Webinar*, October 2006
- Designed, implemented and staffed all Accounting and Finance systems/functions. Engaged major public accounting firm to audit financials starting in 1998.
- Developed streamlined closing and financial systems enabling one day closing and annual audit report releases within 30 days of yearend
- Developed budget and run rate management process. Managed cash flows including vendor deferrals during federal funding delays of over 18 months.
- Built, staffed and managed numerous functions including MIS, HR, legal, purchasing, and facilities

Coventry Healthcare – Director of Finance – August 1996 - August 1998

- Responsible for SEC Reporting, Treasury, Tax and Insurance functions for \$2 billion public health care/health insurance company
- Responsible for regulatory reporting and financial compliance for CHLIC, Coventry's \$500 million PPO and reinsurance arm.

- Responsible for due diligence activities and SEC filings, including S-4, related to the merger of Coventry Healthcare and Principal Financial's HMO group
- Developed and managed sale of Pittsburgh Medicaid subsidiary resulting in tax savings of over \$10 million.
- Performed financial accounting restructuring services for \$500 million subsidiary including management of accounting staff, streamlining of all procedures and clean-up of financial records

CPS Corporation – Controller – November 1994 - August 1996

- Responsible for all Accounting functions for \$150 million, privately held, gift wrap manufacturer. Key participant on Strategic Planning team.
- Responsible for due diligence and financial integration of acquisitions of two largest competitors in the department store gift wrap market
- Developed and managed excess inventory process decreasing excess inventory from \$5 million to less than \$1 million

Arthur Andersen & Co – Audit Manager – May 1987 - October 1994

- Responsible for numerous audit client relationships for both public and privately held companies in the Nashville office

Education and Professional Certifications:

BS Economics, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania – May 1987

Certified Public Accountant
Certified Management Accountant
Certified Financial Manager